(ii) The work of gauge conversion of Daund-Baramati section from narrow gauge to broad gauge, proposed by the Railway in its Preliminary Works Programme for 1992-93, was included in the Railway Budget for 1992-93.

(b) (i) The work of gauge conversion of Daund-Baramati section has already been completed in 1993-94.

(ii) The work of gauge conversion of Solapur-Hotgi-Gadag section has already been included in the Railway Budget for 1993-94, which will achieve the purpose of doubling between Sola pur and Hotgi.

Passenger facilities at South Central Railway station

8099. SHRI YERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Central Railway propose to embark upon a programme to increase passenger amenities like more seating in Railway stations at Tadepalligudem, Eluru and Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to 1995-96 for these stations; and

(c) the investment proposed for these three railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) As Tadepalligudem, Eluru and Bhimavaram Railway Stations have already been provided with passenger amenities, viz. benches, drinking water, latrines, platform shelters, etc., commensurate with the volume of traffic dealt with; there is no proposal, at present, to augment these facilities.

रेलवे द्वारा समस्तीपुर की उपेक्षा संबंधी समाचार

8100. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान हिन्दी दैनिक समाचार पत्र "हिन्दुस्तान" में "रेलवे द्वारा समस्तीपुर की उपेक्षा" शीर्षक से हाल ही में प्रकाशित हुये समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और इस मामल में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी.के. जाफर शरीफ) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां । बहरहाल, समस्तीपुर की उपेक्षा नहीं की गई है । चल रहे आमान परिवर्तन के कार्य के कारण कतिपय समस्तीपुर से गुजरने वाली मी०ला० सवायें कम/पुनर्संगिठत करनी पड़ी थी । 1994-95 के दौरान 4007ए/4008ए दिल्ली-समस्तीपुर एक्सप्रेस सप्ताह में दो बार और 5087ए/5088ए जम्मू तवी-बरौनी साप्ताहिक एक्सप्रेस सहित समस्तीपुर के लिये अतिरिक्त सेवायें उपलब्ध कराई गई थी । 1995-96 के दौरान, अमृतसर-बरौनी (सप्ताह में दो बार) और भागलपुर-मुजफ्फरपुर जन सेवा एक्सप्रैस गाड़ियों के अलावा समस्तीपुर-दरभंगा खंड पर बड़ी लाईन पर भी गाड़ी चलाने की योजना बनाई जा रही है ।

Electrification and renovatin of Railway stations in Gujarat

8101. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of electrification and renovation of some railway stations in Gujarat had been undertaken in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the names of the stations and the progress of the work, as on date;

(c) whether Government have identified some more stations in the State for electrification & renovation in 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure proposed to be spent on these stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Six Railway stations in Gujarat have been undertaken for electrification. Three stations namely Barwala Road, Pudgam Ganeshpura and Jaliva were electrified during 1994-95. In the remaining three stations, namely Piplee, Lorweda and Chhatral the work is planned to be completed in 1995-96.

As regards renovation of station buildings, works of improvements through beautification at Porbunder and provision of a new building in lieu of the old building at Lakhabawal were taken up. Work at Porbunder has been completed.

(c) and (d) All the eligible stations as per extant norms have been electrified.

Work of provision of a new station building in lieu of the old building at Gandhinagar has been included in the Works Programme 1995-96 at a cost of Rs. 46.11 lakhs.

SC|ST Backward Classes in Gujarat

8102. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government for allotment of stalls to Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes|Backward Classes at railway platforms;

(b) the number and details of the stalls allotted at railway platforms to these categories, category-wise, in the country, particularly in Gujarat, during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the quota for allotment of stalls to these categories in the near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The basic critreia is capability, reputation, experience and track record of the party to render requisite standard of Catering services to the passengers. Preference is given to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribe candidates for allotment of catering/vending stalls at small and roadside stations.

(b) State-wise data is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increase of rail routes in Gujarat

8103. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is lesser developed in regard to the rail routes per thousand square kilometers of area;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the said routes during the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A new BG line from Kapadvanj to Modasa (60.50 kms) has been taken up with an allotment of Rs. 2 crores during the financial year 1995-96 for this work.

Proposal to run passenger and goods trains on separate routes

8104. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: